

Patent Application
NC 84,352

Remarks/Arguments

On entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 19 and 2 will be pending in this application; claims 6-18 have been withdrawn; and claims 2, 3 and the extra claim 2 have been previously canceled. If this amendment is not entered into the record, then pending claims will be claims 1, 4, 5, 19, 20 and 21.

At the interview held on April 1, 2005, with Examiner Xu, Dr. Sanghera discussed the issue of particles and grains in the context of this art, mixing of sintering aids with powders and the true understanding of what is a uniform mixture, the transformation of particles to grains during sintering/densification, the comparison of a prior art spinel product with the new spinel product produced in the manner disclosed in the specification herein, trapped sintering aid in the prior art product and its negative effect on optical properties, presence of grains of exaggerated size in the prior art product and absence thereof in the new product and the negative effect thereof on optical and mechanical properties on the resulting products, and the difference on light transmission due to light reflectance and scattering. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Dr. Sanghera has prepared a Declaration, which is attached. The Declaration can serve as the Interview Summary since it sets forth the issues discussed with the Examiner at the interview.

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The Proposed Amendment, a copy of which was given to the Examiner at the interview, includes amendments made in claim 1, which amendments are not substantive but only clarify the subject matter of claim 1. Should the Examiner object to any of the amendments made to claim 1, the amendments will be retracted and claim 1 will then correspond to its form prior to the final rejection.

On entry of this amendment, the presently pending claims will be claims 1, 4, 5, 19 and 20. Claim 1 is an independent claim and claims 4 and 5 are dependent thereon; claim 19 is an independent claim and claim 20 is dependent thereon. Both of the independent claims, i.e., claims 1 and 19, contain the limitation "essentially devoid of a sintering aid and its components," which limitation is defined on p. 12 of the specification herein. This is contrary to what is disclosed at about the middle of column 3 of the Sellers reference. It is also important to note that the cost of the new product is 1/3 to 1/2 of the old product, as disclosed at about the middle of p. 12 of the specification herein.

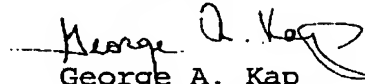
It is believed that claims 1, 4, 5, 19 and 20 are unobvious over the cited prior art and a notice of allowance is requested. If the case is not allowed, then a Notice of Appeal is enclosed pertaining to claims 1, 4, 5, 19 and 20.

It is requested that this amendment be entered into the record

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for the reason that it will place the case in condition for
allowance or a better form for appeal.

Sincerely,

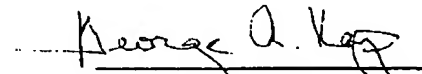


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Fax Certification

I hereby certify that this document is being faxed to the PTO
on the date shown below:

April 20, 2005
Date


George A. Kap